

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /099 W  
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R 171340Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1079  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11938

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CH, IN, UR, YO, BG  
SUBJECT: BANGLADESH DIPLOMAT ON TITO VISIT TO CHINA AND SINO-  
SOVIET RELATIONS

SUMMARY: THE BANGLADESH DCM IN MOSCOW, WHO BASED HIS VIEWS  
ON RECENT EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHINESE CHARGE  
AND YUGOSLAV DCM HERE, STATED THAT TITO MIGHT URGE  
CHINESE LEADERS TO REFRAIN FROM FORCING NON-ALIGNED NATIONS TO  
CHOOSE SIDES IN THE SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE. HE CLAIMED THAT CHINESE  
EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION HAVE ALREADY CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DISSENSION  
IN THE NON-ALIGNED CAMP AND THREATEN TO CAUSE MORE. THE BANGLADESH  
DIPLOMAT ALSO CITED SEVERAL "STRAWS IN THE WIND" INDICATIVE OF A  
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POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-SOVIET ATMOSPHERICS, WHICH HE THOUGHT  
MIGHT MAKE CHINESE MORE RECEPTIVE TO TITO'S REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

1. BANGLADESH DCM IN MOSCOW, FAROOK SOBHAN, TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 16  
THAT TITO WILL BE ASKED BY BREZHNEV TO "DROP A WORD" TO THE CHINESE  
ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIETS DURING HIS TALKS IN PEKING. HE BASED HIS  
INFORMATION ON RECENT EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHINESE

CHARGE AND YUGOSLAV DCM. ASKED IF SUCH A MOVE MIGHT PREJUDICE YUGOSLAV-CHINESE RELATIONS, SOBHAN RESPONDED THAT TITO WOULD AVOID INJECTING HIMSELF INTO SINO-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS. BUT HE CLAIMED TITO DOES HAVE AN OPENING AND AN INTEREST IN URGING THE CHINESE NOT TO TAKE THEIR DISPUTE WITH THE SOVIETS INTO THE NON-ALIGNED CAMP. THE CHINESE, HE SAID, HAVE FOR YEARS PRESSURED NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES INTO TAKING SIDES IN THE SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE. THIS HAS CAUSED SEVERE DISSENSION IN THE NON-ALIGNED CAMP. THE SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE WAS THE MOST HOTLY DEBATED ISSUE AT THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, AND IF CHINA PERSISTS IN ITS POLICY IT THREATENS TO DISRUPT THE MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR BELGRADE AND HAVANA. SOBHAN STATED THAT PEKING MAY BE RESPONSIVE TO A REQUEST BY TITO TO RESTRAIN ITS ANTI-SOVIET EFFORTS AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED IF THE REQUEST IS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF NON-ALIGNED AND THIRD WORLD INTERESTS AND NOT SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS.

2. SOBHAN CLAIMED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RECENT "STRAWS IN THE WIND THAT LEAVE HOPE" FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE ATMOSPHERICS OF SINO-SOVIET AFFAIRS. THIS TREND OFFERS HOPE THAT CHINESE MAY BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO TITO'S REQUEST. ON THE CHINESE SIDE, HE CITED THE SINO-SOVIET NAVIGATION TALKS AND TRADE AGREEMENT, WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A MORE "MODERATE" TONE AMONG CHINESE DIPLOMATS HERE, AND THE ATTENDANCE OF CHINESE DIPLOMATS AT A RECENT FUNCTION SPONSORED BY THE SOVIET-CHINESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. (NOTE: SOBHAN WAS PROBABLY REFERRING TO A CHINESE POETRY READING HELD ON JULY 13 IN MOSCOW. THE FUNCTION WAS SPONSORED BY THE SOVIET-CHINESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY AND ATTENDED BY A CHINESE FIRST SECRETARY ALONG WITH OTHER CHINESE DIPLOMATS. A SHORT NEWS ITEM IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "MOSCOW NEWS" REPORTING THE MEETING HAS BEEN POUCHED TO EUR/SOV).

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SOCIETY AND ATTENDED BY A CHINESE FIRST SECRETARY ALONG WITH OTHER CHINESE DIPLOMATS. A SHORT NEWS ITEM IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "MOSCOW NEWS" REPORTING THE MEETING HAS BEEN POUCHED TO EUR/SOV).

3. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE RENEWED CRITICISM OF THE PRC FROM THE SOVIET SIDE, SOBHAN POINTED TO CONTINUING GESTURES INDICATIVE OF A SOVIET DESIRE TO KEEP THE DOOR OPEN. HE CITED IN THIS CONNECTION BREZHNEV'S EFFUSIVE WELCOME GIVEN THE CHINESE CHARGE AT THIS JULY 8 RECEPTION FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION (NOTE: SOBHAN SAID HE WAS STANDING NEARBY) AND A HIGHER LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE THAN USUAL AT THE RECENT CHINESE ARMY DAY RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE CHINESE EMBASSY.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT IS TOO EARLY AND THE EVIDENCE TOO SCANTY FOR OPTIMISM ON AN IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD ADD TO THIS THAT SOBHAN'S PERSPECTIVES ARE RESPECTED WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HERE. HE SEES THE CHINESE CHARGE ON A PERIOD BASIS. HIS SOURCE IN THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY SERVED EIGHT YEARS IN PEKING. SOBHAN'S LAST POST WAS BELGRADE.

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## Message Attributes

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